value of the trees, several *darkhasts* have to be rejected and Government is losing a large amount in the shape of land revenue, as the lands containing sandal trees lie waste on this account. It is therefore prayed that the present rule may be revised and the sandal tree may be treated as before as the exclusive property of Government for the safe preservation whereof the occupant is liable under the Forest Regulation.

Reply of Government.—Under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 97.

Traction Engine.

Mr. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, himoga municipality.

Summary of discussion.—From the figures furnished last year it is evident that the employment of the Traction Engine has not resulted in any gain to the Government. It is not known how a profit of Rs. 9,750 has been arrived at for the past two years and a half.

The capital investment is	.... Rs.	47,000
Being a commercial concern, we have to add to actual expenses, interest at 4 per cent per annum on the capital outlay. This works out for 2½ years to a sum of	.... ,,	4,700
Add working expenses during the above period (as furnished by the Conservator of Forests)	,,	11,000
Total		15,700
Add depreciation and sinking fund at 10 per cent on the capital outlay	....Rs.	4,700
Total	Rs.	20,400

The estimated value of work being Rs. 21,000, the net profits barely come up to Rs. 600 and not Rs. 9,750 as given by the Forest Department.

Our roads also are considerably damaged by this engine. The Public Works Department will be able to say what they claim on this account.

It is suggested that experimenting with such concerns may not be undertaken.

Reply of Government.—Will be enquired into.

SUBJECT No. 98.

Cardamom cultivation in State Forests.

Mr. H. Basavegowda, Manjarabad taluk.

Summary of discussion.—It has been decided that not less than 50 acres may be leased out to raiyats for cardamom cultivation in State Forests. As this rule is helpful only to the rich, it is prayed that in order to help the poor raiyats the minimum may be reduced to 10 acres.

Reply of Government.—Will be considered.